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ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

JULY AND AUG., 1847.

ANNIVERSARY.

THE Society held its Nineteenth Anniversary in Boston, May 24, at 7½ o'clock, P. M., in the Central Church, Winter street. Hon. SAMUEL GREELE, one of the Vice Presidents, was called to the chair, and the meeting was opened by the Rev. GEO. E. ADAMS, of Brunswick, Me., with prayer, and reading of the Scriptures. The President then introduced the exercises by a brief address, and the Rev. GEO. C. BECKWITH, Corresponding Secretary, read extracts from the Annual Report, and a series of Resolutions as the basis of remarks by the gentlemen who were expected to speak on the occasion. Addresses were then made by the Rev. RUFUS W. CLARKE, Portsmouth, N. H., the Rev. ROBERT BAIRD, D. D., New York, and the Rev. EDWARD N. KIRK, Boston, with a few remarks from AMASA WALKER, Esq., North Brookfield, Mass., in reference to the pacific character and policy of Louis Philippe, as developed in his interview with the Peace Deputation in 1843. The meeting, which was fully attended, and unusually interesting, closed near ten o'clock, with decided omens of good to our cause; and the Society adjourned to the next morning, for the completion of its annual business.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT.

CHRISTIAN FRIENDS:—It is but a few hours since the members of the Massachusetts Bible Society were assembled within these walls. I am glad, that in the arrangement of our anniversaries, this association has the precedence in point of time. This is as it should be; for I consider it as a tacit admission, that the Bible ought to guide and govern the various benevolent and religious movements of the week. The Peace Society comes

next in order, as it appears in the printed programme, now in our hands. What arrangement could be more fitting and felicitous than this?

In the second chapter of St. Luke, we find the motto of our Society. Peace and good will to men are the burden of the angelic song which announced the advent of the Prince of Peace, thus indicating that we are engaged in promoting one of the great objects of the Savior's mission to this world. As if to intimate its importance, this purpose stands out, as it were, in bold relief, on the very frontispiece of the gospel of his love. It is for us to co-operate with Providence, in giving historic reality to this prophetic hymn. What can be more eminently Christian, than to be co-workers with Heaven in promoting the pacification of the nations of the earth? Notwithstanding we must confess, that the aspect of our times is gloomy in some respects, we have much to encourage us in this glorious cause. War is not now, as in former years, the mere pastime of the rulers of the earth. Public opinion has now much to do in settling the great question of peace or war. We, yes, the humblest of us, may do much to give a healthy tone to that public sentiment which is destined to be the great law-maker of the world.

Though appearances are seemingly against us, I verily believe that the great heart of the nation is essentially right on this all-important subject. Public sentiment is not dead; it only sleepeth. I trust that the utterances of this evening may tend to wake up this slumbering giant; when aroused, wo betide that administration, call it by whatever name you please, whose policy and popularity are based on war.

Physical science, by depressing mountains, and elevating vallies, is now preparing a level and an iron path for the intercourse of lands, distant from each other. This is emblematical of the processes now going on in the moral world. The heroic virtues, if virtues they may be called, are destined to come down; and the Christian graces, the lowly and lovely virtues of the beatitudes, are destined to rise; and thus a highway is preparing for that promised advent of the Prince of Peace, when he shall come in his great power to rule over nations, as he now reigns in the hearts of his saints.

I think the world is beginning to reverse its decisions in regard to the characters of men. Monuments and mausoleums will be erected at no distant day to the self-sacrificing philanthropist, and to the fearless advocate of peace, rather than to the time-serving statesmen, and the blood-stained heroes of the day. The sainted names of Worcester and Ladd, and of other kindred spirits now in heaven, will be held in grateful remembrance long after the ephemeral laurels which deck the heroes' brows, shall have paled and faded away.

A vessel of war, usually laden with the implements of destruction and death, has lately been sent out freighted with food, which was gratuitously distributed among the famished inhabitants of a distant land. I accept this as an omen of peace. I trust that this benevolent action of the nation will tend to cement that wise and conciliatory treaty, lately negotiated by

able and Christian statemen, which averted the horrors of war, and bound us and our fatherland more firmly together, in the bonds of amity and peace.

Would to God that those vessels of war now employed in battering down the walled towns and cities of a neighboring republic, could be employed on similar peaceful messages of love. May this event prove the precursor of that predicted era, when swords shall be beaten into plough shares, and spears into pruning hooks, and every instrument of war shall be converted into an implement of husbandry and peace. Then every one will be permitted to sit under his own vine and fig tree; for there will be none to molest or make afraid in the holy mountain of the Lord.

REPORT.

The past year we are compelled to review in sorrow; for it has been filled with the crimes and the woes inseparable from war. Another apocalypse of blood has opened to the world's astonished gaze, and been emptying the vials of its wrath upon nearly thirty millions of people whose common professions of attachment to the principles of liberty should have held them in the bonds of perpetual peace and amity. After more than thirty years of peace with all nations, our republic, forgetting the sage advice of its founders, contradicting its long-cherished policy, and disregarding alike its duty and its interests, has plunged into war against a sister republic, whose weakness, misgovernment and miseries ought to have excited our compassion instead of provoking our vengeance. It is a new epoch in our history; and, however lauded by a portion of our countrymen, it is likely to inflict upon ourselves, as well as upon Mexico, and the general interests of freedom, an amount of mischief which no arithmetic can fully compute.

At present, however, we shall not dwell upon this war. The time has not yet come to write its mournful history; but, when that time does come, the friends of peace may expect such an account of its origin, progress, and baleful results, as will be likely to make upon the public an effective impression respecting the guilt and suicidal folly of the whole custom. We anticipate from the war eventual good to our cause by teaching the people lessons they would never have learned in any other school. It will, indeed, be wisdom dearly bought, yet fully worth, we trust, its fearful cost. From the hundreds of millions of treasure likely to be wasted in this war; from the thousands on thousands of lives it has already sacrificed; from the multitude of families into which it will have sent the voice of lamentation and sorrow; from the hardships, exposures and diseases before which its agents have often melted away like dew beneath the morning sun; from its sickly camps, its wasting marches, and its gory battle-fields; from the vices and crimes which mark every step of its progress, and threaten to roll back upon ourselves, as well as to pour over prostrate Mexico, a tide of the foulest corruptions; from the abominable principles it is setting afloat, the poison it is injecting into the great arteries of society, the malign

influences it is every where distilling, like a moral pestilence, upon the people ; from these, there will and must yet come forth such warnings against war as all thoughtful friends of God and their country will be sure in time to heed, and will then unite, we trust, by millions for the prevention hereafter of so terrible a scourge.

It is quite time that an end were put, in Christendom at least, to this relic of a barbarous paganism. It is a libel on Christianity, on the mere civilization of the age, and should at once give place to peaceful Christian methods of international justice, and to the reciprocities of fraternal affections and offices. The possibility, the beauty, the efficacy of such reciprocities, one event of the last year has most fully, most delightfully shown. The famine in Ireland and Scotland has developed the real brotherhood of nations ; and the spontaneous uprising of our people to pour their charities upon the millions starving there, is a spectacle far more glorious in the eyes of God, and one day to be held in higher honor among men, than all the victories ever won by the sword. The visit of one of our war-ships to Ireland upon an errand, not of vengeance, but of love, and freighted, not with the missiles of death, but with the means of life to a perishing people, has probably done more to preserve peace between us and England than would a hundred or a thousand millions of money expended in military preparations. Here is the secret of international peace on Christian principles ; and, had we spent, in acts of like unfeigned, out-gushing kindness towards Mexico, one tenth part of the treasure already wasted in fighting her, we might, long ere this, have got a peace quite to the satisfaction of both parties. Thus, and thus only, could we have truly conquered a peace, and made it as lasting as that between William Penn and the red men of the forest. Ignorant, semi-barbarous as she is, Mexico has at bottom, all the elements of humanity ; and, when we read of the kindness shown by her women to our troops, and remember the tale especially of one who went forth amid showers of death upon the bloody field of Monterey with her gourd of water to the wounded and dying, we cannot help feeling that such a people might have been won to justice, amity and peace, by a Christian disposition on our part to overcome evil with good.

PETITIONS FOR PEACE WITH MEXICO.—We cannot say we have discharged our whole duty in opposition to this war ; but we have done what we could with our limited means of influence, to arrest its progress, and bring it to a close. It came upon us so suddenly, the first intimation of serious or immediate danger being the report of actual hostilities, that we had no opportunity for efforts in the way of prevention ; and Congress, without pausing for discussion or inquiry, voted in such hot haste their 50,000 troops, and their ten millions of money, to begin the bloody work, that the whole avalanche was upon us before we could lift a finger to hold it back, or even learn how or why it came. We formed at first the plan of public meetings to protest against the war ; but the reckless cry of *our country, right or wrong*, and the whirlwind of excitement sweeping over the land on the subject, dissuaded us from the attempt, as promising, in such a state of things, very little permanent good.

We next turned our thoughts to our rulers, at whose bidding alone the sword can be drawn or sheathed ; but Congress, very soon after voting their declaration of war, and the means requisite for its prosecution, adjourned, and left its management in the hands of the Executive. On the 20th of July, therefore, we addressed to the President of the United States a petition, in which we "earnestly entreated him to take measures for the immediate termination of the war, by recalling our troops from Mexico, and then offering to adjust with her all matters in dispute, either by renewed negotiation, or by reference to umpires mutually chosen." In support of this request, we urged nine reasons, any one of which ought to have been sufficient; but the petition, though very politely acknowledged by the Secretary of State, was entirely unavailing for its specific object. Learning, soon after this petition was drafted, that the British Government had signified its willingness to act as mediator between us and Mexico, we prepared, on the 27th of July, another petition, "very respectfully yet most earnestly requesting the President to accept on our part this generous proposal, and meanwhile suspend all hostile operations against Mexico to give a fair trial to this overture for terminating the disputes between us without any further effusion of blood."

Both these petitions, however courteously received, were apparently disregarded; and, the first day after the opening of our national legislature in December last, we sent to Congress a long and earnest petition, that they would "take, without delay, such measures within the pale of their constitutional powers, as they might judge best fitted to terminate the present war with Mexico, without any further waste of blood and treasure. We felt constrained to remonstrate against the war as repugnant to the spirit and precepts of our holy religion; as at variance with the professed policy of our government from its origin; as highly unjust and cruel to Mexico; as unnecessary, and suicidal to ourselves; as fraught with no real good to either party, and pregnant with immense evils to both, and likely to bring disgrace upon our country, and the cause of popular freedom."

Each of these three petitions we got published in a large number of newspapers, and thus brought such views of the matter before hundreds of thousands of our countrymen. In December we also sent forth in the papers through the land, a respectful but urgent request, that all persons desirous of having the war brought to a close without any more bloodshed, would express their wishes to this effect by petitions to Congress. We published at the same time a brief, unexceptionable form of petition for this purpose, and sent more than 1200 circulars, with twice as many of those blank forms, mainly to ministers of the gospel in different parts of the land. The result, though not successful in terminating the war, was highly gratifying in the number of petitions that were forwarded to Congress from different and widely distant sections of the country. We received letters in favor of the object even from the slave States; and, on some days, a dozen or twenty petitions on the subject were presented to the House of Representatives alone. We have no means

of knowing how many in all were sent to Congress; but the whole number was probably much greater than all besides that were ever presented, on the subject of peace, to our government from its origin to the present time.

Besides these petitions, we have made special efforts, while carefully concealing our own agency in the matter, to enlist such portions of the periodical press as were not already subsidized to the support of the war. Of these we found not a few; and, while many of our secular papers have gone blindly for the prosecution of the war without regard to its character, we rejoice in being able to say, that the *religious* press, with few exceptions, and these mainly of culpable silence, has, especially at the north, come out boldly against it as a most deplorable sin and curse. The result is, that the great body of Christians in every denomination loathe this war, and even the conscience of the nation at large would seem to repudiate it, and throw the responsibility upon the politicians who first plunged us into this sea of blood, or who now lend it their support through fear lest the recoil of popular displeasure should overwhelm themselves or their party with charges of treason against the republic.

PREMIUM FOR A REVIEW OF THE MEXICAN WAR.—Well knowing how difficult it is to plead for peace amid the din of war, yet intent on turning this conflict to account for the ultimate furtherance of our cause, we concluded, at the suggestion of some of our wisest friends, and after much deliberation in the committee, to offer, as we did, a premium of *five hundred dollars* for a **REVIEW OF THE MEXICAN WAR**, without reference to political parties, and designed to present such a view of the subject as will, when the hour of sober, candid reflection shall return, commend itself to the good sense of all fair-minded men in every party through the land. The war, in its origin, its progress, and the whole sweep of its evils to all concerned, is to be reviewed on the principles of Christianity, and an enlightened statesmanship, showing especially its waste of treasure and human life; its baleful influence on the interests of morality and religion; its inconsistency with the genius of our republican institutions, as well as with the precepts of our religion, and the spirit of the age; its bearings, immediate and remote, on free, popular governments here, and through the world; how its evils might have been avoided with better results to both parties; and what means may and should be adopted by nations to prevent similar evils in future. We made this offer in the hope of turning the war into effectual warnings against resorts to the sword hereafter; and, wishing for this purpose to strip the discussion of party bearings, and thus bring the question home to the heart and conscience of every person in the land, we proposed that the essays be presented four months after the close of the war. When the proper time comes, we shall hope to circulate *gratuitously* from 50,000 to 100,000 copies among editors, and legislators, and teachers, and Christian ministers, and other leading minds from one end of the land to the other. All this we shall certainly do, if our friends will furnish the requisite means; and we trust that the obvious impor-

tance of the object, and the prospect of thus accomplishing a great deal with little expense, will induce them spontaneously to contribute all the funds we shall need for this purpose.

PUBLICATIONS.—Twelve years ago, our Society had not a single tract stereotyped; and its venerated Founder was exceedingly anxious to procure a series like that of the London Peace Society. Little, however, was done before his death in 1841; but, in 1845–6, some fifty tracts were stereotyped, and, during the past year, the whole series has been completed to the number of sixty-four in all, making, with a full and minute index, a densely printed volume of more than 600 pages. It is altogether the richest thesaurus on the subject of peace in our language, and comprises the best contributions, and essays of great beauty and power, from more than twenty such writers as ERASMUS, and NECKER, and BOGUE, and GURNEY, and DYMOND, and CHALMERS, and ROBERT HALL, and WORCESTER, and CHANNING, and LADD, and GRIMKE, and JAY, and MALCOM, and SUMNER; besides copious extracts from such men as *Payson*, *Dwight*, *Appleton*, *Cecil*, *John Angel James*, *Franklin*, *Jefferson*, *Leigh Hunt*, *Thomas Carlyle*, *Douglas Jerrold*, and many others of like celebrity.

Of this work, entitled the *Book of Peace*, we have already published two entire editions, of 1000 copies each, and perhaps twice as many more of a large number of separate tracts for particular purposes. We need the whole work as a book of general reference for the satisfaction of cultivated minds on the variety of topics embraced in our cause. It has been with us a favorite desire to put this Encyclopedia of Peace in every college and professional seminary, in every academy and public library through the land, besides sending it to every missionary station, among the heathen, supported by American Christians, and furnishing with it a large number of our leading, most influential men at home. We have begun, *only* begun, the execution of this plan; and, when it shall be carried into full effect, we flatter ourselves that we shall have scattered the best seeds of peace in the very gardens of intellect, opinion and character through the world.

Special Circulation of Peace Publications.—We have made in this department a somewhat auspicious beginning. There are about 200 American missionary stations among the heathen, and a still larger number of colleges and theological seminaries in this country, to the greater part of which we have already sent copies of the Book of Peace, besides furnishing it at prices merely nominal to *all* the students in some of our theological schools. To the missionaries in the Sandwich Islands, we sent about 30 copies, and have been much gratified to receive in return a donation of five dollars from one individual there in aid of our cause. An indefinite number have also been presented to men of eminence and influence, as well as to many editors, especially of religious papers, in some thirty of which, belonging to nearly all the denominations in our country, the work has been very favorably noticed.

Soon after the commencement of hostilities with Mexico, the

secretaries of the American Home Missionary Society, whose operations in the great valley of the West were likely to be impeded by the prevalence there of such a spirit and such vices as invariably follow in the wake of war, sent us an earnest request that we would furnish copies of our publications for the use of nearly a thousand missionaries, or missionary pastors, supported in part by them in our new and destitute settlements. Having no funds for the purpose, we reported to our friends this application for their aid; and they furnished such an amount, that we sent for the use of ministers at the West 1600 volumes, some of about 200 pages each, others of 400, and a few entire copies of the Book of Peace, besides more than 100,000 pages of separate tracts for distribution among the people. This is more than all we ever had done before for the great West, yet a mere fraction of what *ought* to have been done there many years ago.

Another Work stereotyped.—We have long been deeply in need of a brief, comprehensive work on the subject of Peace, embodying in a small compass the main facts, arguments and explanations on the general subject, fitted for circulation alike among common and cultivated minds. We trust this desideratum is at length supplied by a small volume of 252 pages 18mo., recently prepared and stereotyped. It has just been sent for careful inspection to a number of our most judicious friends from several of whom (such as the Rev. DANIEL SHARP, D. D., of the Baptist Church, the Rev. PRESIDENT NOTT, of the Presbyterian Church, the Hon. SIMON GREENLEAF, L. L. D., Professor of Law in Harvard University, and ISAAC COLLINS, a distinguished Friend in Philadelphia,) we have already received answers speaking in strong commendation of the work as well suited to its purpose. We think it will meet with general, if not universal approbation from good men; and, if so, we shall endeavor to circulate it, very like the Temperance Documents, first among Christian ministers, along with other leading men, especially in our legislatures, and finally in all the families through the land. We ought to aim at nothing less than this; and such a plan, once carried into full operation, would do much to leaven the entire mass of our people with such principles and influences as might ere long render it morally impossible for this nation ever to engage in war again.

GENERAL COURSE OF THE SOCIETY.—It will be remembered that the Society, at its last annual meeting for business, had much discussion on this subject, and passed with great unanimity a series of resolves restricting its operations to the single object of international peace, and inviting the co-operation of all that are disposed to labor with us for the accomplishment of this purpose. In consequence of those discussions, and in view especially of the feelings they elicited at the time from the Society, the Executive Committee, after having had the subject under consideration for some months, sent the draft of a revised constitution, framed professedly in strict accordance with those resolves, to all the members of the Society, from whom, as indicated by their responses, they met with an almost unanimous

approval. Soon after the receipt of these responses, a number of our officers resigned; and their respective resignations were accepted by the Board of Directors in December last; but none of the vacancies, except that of the presidency, was it deemed necessary to fill, inasmuch as the number still remaining were found quite sufficient for all practical purposes. Our Executive Committee thus lost a portion of its most active members; but we are not aware that any one withdrew from membership in the Society.

FINANCES.—We are happy to say, that our financial condition is much better than our circumstances during the year seemed to forebode. The debt due to our late Treasurer at the time of his resignation, has been put, we hope, in a train of satisfactory adjustment, so as to relieve the Society, by the liberality of individuals, from the burden and embarrassment of old claims. The receipts of the year, though much too small for such a cause, are larger than usual from ordinary sources, nearly \$500 more than the year preceding, and suffice, without any thing from legacies, to cover our current expenses, the sum total of income being \$3,387 31, and expenditures \$3,404 43, leaving a balance against the Society of \$17 12.

We think a Society like this should be managed on the principle of having its income and expenditures equally balanced; and we trust that the liberality of our friends, aided by a rigid economy on the part of our Executive, will hereafter put and keep the balance always on the right side. The indications of the past year satisfy us, that a proper presentation of this cause before the whole Christian community, would secure an amount of contributions amply sufficient for a much larger scale of operations than we have ever attempted.

AGENCIES.—Four persons, besides the agent at our office, have been in the Society's service during the year; two of them all the time, and the other two only a part. Besides the Secretary through the year, the General Agent continued his labors up to the first of last January; the Rev. WILLIAM H. DALRYMPLE, of the Baptist church, has spent most of his time in lecturing for the Society, and the Rev. CYRIL PEARL, of the Congregational church, has held a commission for the same purpose, and occasionally served us in that capacity. Some others were authorized to act as lecturing agents; but, having received no report of their labors, we presume they have performed none of any considerable amount.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS.—The London Peace Society, the great champion of this cause in the Old World, has held on its wonted course with steadily increasing energy and success. It seems to be the life-guard of peace there, a solid phalanx of veterans in the cause; and it is truly refreshing to observe with what calm, untiring, ever-growing zeal, they push forward their great work. Not long ago they proposed to raise, for a single department of service, an *additional* sum of \$5000; and from the subscriptions reported, varying from \$25 to \$500 each, we presume they must have succeeded very soon in making up the whole amount. By means of

such large, spontaneous donations, they sustain a scale of expenditures much beyond our own. Besides several lecturers at home, they employ one on the continent, and contribute no small part of the instrumentality for spreading our cause in Belgium and Holland, in France, Switzerland, and other parts of Europe.

DECEASE OF FRIENDS.—Our cause mourns the loss, during the past year, of several distinguished friends. We have to record the death of one Life Director of our Society, the Hon. MARTIN BRIMMER, formerly Mayor of this city, and one of its most liberal and honored citizens; and in England, we have lost the venerable and illustrious philanthropist, THOMAS CLARKSON, an early and devoted friend of peace, and the gifted, accomplished and excellent JOSEPH JOHN GURNEY, whose great wealth and eminent abilities were always at the service of our cause. Religion and humanity alike mourn these losses; and we are strongly tempted, in the language of nature's great poet, to say,

“They were men that, take them all in all,
We ne'er shall look upon their like again.”

AUXILIARY AGENCIES AND INFLUENCES.—A variety of these have been at work through the year. The plan of friendly international correspondence, first suggested by some Quakers in Manchester, Eng., and put in practice for a time with much success to avert the danger of war between Great Britain and America, has been partially continued between different towns and cities in the two countries. The responses from Worcester, Philadelphia, and some other places, carried out to England by Mr. Burritt last June, were received with great enthusiasm by those to whom they were addressed.

From this movement seems to have sprung the League of Universal Brotherhood, conceived in this country, but first announced to the world in England, at the time of the General Temperance Convention in London last August; and since then there have rallied under its banners, it is said, some 20,000 signers to a pledge which avows the strongest doctrines of peace. Such a response to such an appeal is a striking index to the spirit of the times, to the spread and vigor of peace principles; and, while we are not at liberty, even if disposed, to endorse the other objects supposed to be embraced in this movement, we cordially bid god-speed to its efforts for the promotion of peace, and hope its success will far exceed the expectations of its most sanguine friends.

Even the political discussions of the year have made some contributions to our cause. The documents brought before Congress, the speeches made in both Houses, and the disclosures or admissions even of party presses, have served to throw a kind of lurid light athwart the horrid features of war, and done something to impress the public more deeply with its evils. The reports and letters from the seat of the war, with which every secular paper in the land has teemed for a whole year, have removed the veil from some of its abominations, and given the people an occasional glimpse of its atrocities and horrors. We are well aware that some papers have

apparently gloated over the wholesale butcheries perpetrated in Mexico; but the general facts recorded will stand forever as witnesses before the world against this war, and all war.

Far better service has been rendered to our cause by the religious presses of the country. We are familiar with a large number of them; but we cannot now specify a single one at the North that has stood forth in vindication of this war, while many have denounced it in strong terms, used their influence in various ways to arrest its progress, and taken occasion to publish much more than ever before in behalf of our cause. Editors and their correspondents have probably written as much against war, the past year, as in ten years before. The Quakers, too, those devoted, self-denying pioneers in this cause centuries ago, have been awaked to new zeal; for, besides a large circulation of Dymond's work on War by individuals of the Society, some of its younger members in Philadelphia issued, we believe, 10,000 copies of a tract to dissuade men from enlisting in the Mexican war, and also 20,000 copies of a single number of a newspaper, (*the Christian Volunteer,*) exceedingly well adapted to its purpose.

We believe the pulpit has very extensively uttered its protest against this great abomination. We are acquainted with many ministers of the gospel in different parts of the country, but can hardly point to one who does not hold the war in abhorrence, or who has not, from time to time, borne his public testimony against it as a fearful sin and scourge. We think the Christian ministry have in times past slumbered over their obligations to this cause; but no class in the community have, during the year, done so much as they to create or preserve a national conscience that would repudiate this whole war, and hold it in deep loathing. A large number of sermons on the subject of peace have been published; and, from the extracts copied into our periodical, our friends have seen how earnestly and eloquently they plead our cause.

We have, also, been gratified to find the deep-felt displeasure of good men at this war expressing itself to some extent in the action of churches, the proceedings of ecclesiastical bodies, and the resolutions passed by some of our late legislatures. These are fair indices to the tone of feeling among fair-minded men in respect to this war; and, but for the fear of being taunted as traitors, and a vague idea that it is better to bear the evil in silence than to reproach our country for it, this feeling would have vented itself in far louder outbursts of displeasure. There is, after all, more peace principle in the community than most of us suspect; but it needs to be enlightened, and cherished, and called forth into action and concert.

Here is our proper work; and we deem it very important that the press and the pulpit, the school and the fireside through our own land, and through all Christendom, should be fully, speedily and permanently enlisted in behalf of peace. The rise and progress of the present war show how little security we ourselves have against the return of this dreadful scourge; for, a people that could, at the

first blast of the bugle, rush to arms on pretexts so slight or so wicked, may well be expected hereafter to plunge into almost any war to which either passion or party may instigate them. In other parts of this hemisphere, and all over the Old World, the danger is still more imminent; and a crisis both here and there seems to be approaching, which, unless the power of the Gospel, in its pacific influences, shall be so applied as to avert a catastrophe so deplorable, will deluge the nations with blood. We may cry peace; but there can be no sure or permanent peace without timely, vigorous measures to prevent the recurrence of war. A few years ago, we were, by some, regarded as fanatics and incendiaries, because we labored so zealously to avert a threatened war with England. It was confidently said, that the war-spirit was well nigh extinct in this country; that every body here was for peace, and nobody for war; that our last battle had been fought, and it would be utterly impossible to lure or goad us again into conflict with any nation on earth. Alas! how have facts contradicted all this! We have since been twice on the eve of a war with England herself; and so rife was the war-spirit among us, so ready and eager our people for the work of blood, that, when our government called for 50,000 volunteers to fight the Mexicans on their own soil, no less than 200,000, four times the number wanted, were officially reported to have tendered their services. What will restrain such men from fighting in any war that their rulers may choose for any purpose to declare, or from rushing blindly to arms at the call of some future Cæsar or Napoleon, whose iron-heeled despotism may one day trample our vaunted liberties in the dust? Surely the crisis should rouse all that love their country. There is no time to lose; and whatever is done, ought to be done without delay for the prevention of coming wars, compared with which, this with Mexico is mere childish sport.

Under apprehensions like these, we are anxious for a speedy and a large increase of efforts in this cause, to seize the awakened attention of the public, and spread our facts, arguments and appeals over the whole country with the least possible delay. We wish to reach especially the great Valley of the West, the real source of the present war, and the probable hot-bed of our future wars, where the war-spirit is peculiarly rife, and where very little indeed has yet been done, by efforts in our cause, to christianize public sentiment on this subject. Had that sentiment been the same there as here, we probably should never have heard of this war; and, if we wish to prevent similar evils in future, we must forthwith overspread that whole Valley of the West with a flood of information on this subject, nor pause in our work until we shall have leavened the entire nation with the principles of peace.

This purpose will require a large increase of aid from our friends. In our Peace Manual, we think we have the very work needed to spread the requisite information; and we wish, by furnishing it first to every minister of the gospel in our land, to prepare the way for its circulation among all other classes, and, eventually, in every family. If we had ten or twenty thousand dollars, we could

wisely spend it all for this purpose alone, and should expect in due time a rich harvest from the seed thus sown. We hope the way will ere long be open for circulating the proposed review of this war; and then it ought, we think, to go forthwith into every neighborhood in the land. When the war is over, and the people return to sober reflection upon its guilt and its evils, then will be the seed-time of our cause; and its friends will not be true to their trust, to God or their country, if they fail to bring this subject, in all its magnitude and urgency, before the mass of our population through the length and breadth of the land.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the present war with Mexico, with all its crimes and woes, is a pretty fair specimen of the custom itself, as a compound of wickedness and folly.
2. That the war-spirit so extensively roused through the land by this war, is a species of moral poison, that ought by all good men to be rebuked and resisted as unchristian, immoral, and highly pernicious.
3. That the maxim, now so current, of *our country, right or wrong*, is subversive of God's authority as the Supreme Lawgiver of the Universe, incompatible with any fixed standard of duty, and likely, if not discarded by our people, to undermine their moral character, to flood the land with corruption, and turn the government into an irresponsible engine of wholesale wickedness.
4. That the vices, crimes and evils already occasioned by this war, should rouse all good men to new efforts for the utter abolition of the custom as an unchristian and suicidal method of settling national disputes.
5. That the readiness with which we plunged into this war, the eagerness with which so many of our people rushed at first to its fields of blood, and the disposition of Congress to carry it on, and of leading men in each party to support it, whether right or wrong, strikingly show how little security we have from such persons against the perpetual recurrence of war, and how much need there is of increased efforts to saturate the nation with pacific sentiments.
6. That the practice of mourning one day over the fall of our own countrymen in war, and exulting the next over the butchery of thrice as many of our enemies, is glaringly repugnant to Christian principle and common humanity.
7. That the prompt generosity of our people in relieving the victims of famine in a foreign land, when viewed in contrast with the wholesale destruction of the Mexicans by order of our government, shows how contrary war is to the best dictates of our nature, and how far it hardens or perverts our finest sensibilities.
8. That this war, when past, and its evils fresh in the minds of men, may and should be used as a most effective argument for our cause; and therefore we fully approve the course of our Executive Committee in offering so large a premium for the best review of the war, and trust it will in due time be scattered broadcast over the whole land, as a dissuasive from similar resorts to the sword in future.
9. That, regarding the Christian press and pulpit as the chief allies of our cause, we record with much pleasure the services they have the last year rendered it in the discharge of their appropriate duties as teachers of a religion whose motto is "peace on earth, good will to men."